



February 22, 2023

My name is Alison Shih and I serve as Counsel for Everytown for Gun Safety where I'm responsible for supporting state legislative efforts in Connecticut. Everytown is the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country, with more than 10 million supporters including moms, mayors, veterans, survivors, gun owners, and everyday Americans fighting for public safety measures that can help save lives. I want to thank you all for allowing me to testify in support of Proposed Bill 5653.

This bill is common sense, good policy for Connecticut. This bill would establish a modest tax on ammunition sales, the proceeds of which would go to support community violence intervention programming within the state. We know that gun violence has severe economic consequences for impacted communities. Residents of communities impacted by gun violence experience lower property values, fewer business start ups, and loss of jobs. One study found that each gun-related non-fatal assault costs society \$1.2 million.<sup>1</sup> Another study found that in Minneapolis, each homicide in a given year led to 80 fewer jobs the following year.<sup>2</sup> And in Washington DC, a study found that each gun homicide in a given year was associated with two fewer retail and service establishments the next year. Taxing ammunition sales helps offset the cost of gun violence and can help support violence intervention programs that address the full cycle of violence—from root causes, to intervening at acute moments of crisis, to providing support for victims and survivors. Ultimately, community violence intervention programs support communities and help save lives and it is wise to seek sustainable funding for these programs.

Taxing ammunition sales is a logical way to do so and is not novel. In addition to the 11% federal retail tax on ammunition which has been in effect since 1941, several jurisdictions have imposed excise taxes on ammunition sales, including Cook County, Illinois and Seattle, Washington.<sup>3</sup> In fact, Seattle's 2015 ordinance largely mirrors the provisions of this bill, taxing ammunition sales at \$.02 for each round that is .22 caliber or less and \$.05 each per round for any other kind of ammunition, with the proceeds, in part, supporting community violence intervention programming, just as Proposed Bill 5653 would do.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cook PJ, Ludwig J. The benefits of reducing gun ownership: evidence from contingent-valuation survey data. *The Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*. 2001; 22(3): 207-226.

<sup>2</sup> Irvin-Erickson Y, Lynch M, Gurvis A, Mohr E, Bai B. A neighborhood-level analysis of the economic impact of gun violence. <https://urbn.is/2GQ18oA>. Urban Institute. June 2017

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/bullet-control/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://clerk.seattle.gov/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s3=&s4=124833&s5=&s1=&s2=&S6=&Sect4=AND&I=0&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=CBORY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=ORDF&p=1&u=%2F-public%2Fcbor1.htm&r=1&f=G>



This is common sense, good efforts to pass this legislation.

policy and we fully support your

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. I am grateful for your thoughtful approach to establishing a dedicated source of funding for community violence intervention programs in Connecticut.